

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3308

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 22, 2008

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Voting Sup-
5 port Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Veterans serving in foreign wars have per-
2 formed a great service to, and risked the greatest
3 sacrifice in the name of, our country, and should be
4 supported by the people and the Government of the
5 United States.

6 (2) Veterans are especially qualified to under-
7 stand issues of war, foreign policy, and government
8 support for veterans, and they should have the op-
9 portunity to voice that understanding through vot-
10 ing.

11 (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
12 assist veterans in meeting their medical, social, and
13 civic needs, including the full participation of vet-
14 erans in our democracy.

15 (4) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
16 make every effort to assist veterans to register to
17 vote and to vote.

18 **SEC. 3. USE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
19 **CILITIES AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGEN-**
20 **CIES.**

21 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
22 State to designate facilities of the Department of Veterans
23 Affairs located in such State as voter registration agencies
24 under section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of
25 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-5).

1 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE WITH ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

2 In addition to the duties required under section 7 of
3 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.
4 1973gg-5), any facility of the Department of Veterans Af-
5 fairs designated as a voter registration agency under sec-
6 tion 3 shall—

7 (1) provide information relating to the oppor-
8 tunity to request an absentee ballot;

9 (2) make available absentee ballot applications
10 and absentee ballots upon request, as well as assist-
11 ance in completing such applications and ballots;
12 and

13 (3) work with local election officials to ensure
14 the proper delivery of absentee ballot applications
15 and absentee ballots.

16 **SEC. 5. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NONPARTISAN ORGA-**
17 **NIZATIONS.**

18 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
19 meaningful opportunity for nonpartisan organizations to
20 provide voter registration information and assistance at
21 facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY ELECTION OFFICIALS**
23 **AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
24 **CILITIES.**

25 (a) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall not prohibit any election administration
3 official, whether State or local, party-affiliated or
4 non-party affiliated, or elected or appointed, from
5 providing voting information to veterans at any facil-
6 ity of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

7 (2) VOTING INFORMATION.—In this subsection,
8 the term “voting information” means nonpartisan
9 information intended for the public about voting, in-
10 cluding information about voter registration, voting
11 systems, absentee balloting, polling locations, and
12 other important resources for voters.

13 (b) VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES.—The Sec-
14 retary shall provide reasonable access to facilities of the
15 Department of Veterans Affairs to State and local election
16 officials for the purpose of providing nonpartisan voter
17 registration services to individuals.

18 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLIANCE.**

19 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
20 Congress an annual report on how the Secretary has com-
21 plied with the requirements of this Act.

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